

TENNESSEE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION		
SCHOOL SAFETY		3201
ADOPTED: July 28, 2017	REVISED:	MONITORING: Review: Annually

Each authorized charter school shall adopt procedures for keeping school facilities safe and free from hazards to the life and safety of children and teachers. The school is responsible for ensuring that safety is a part of the instructional program of the school and that it is appropriately geared to students at different grade levels.ⁱ The necessary precautions shall be taken to minimize the possibilities of fire, explosion, and comparable dangerous incidents from occurring. All staff members shall report current and potential hazards to their immediate supervisor(s). All staff members shall be periodically reminded of the necessity of their responsibility for promptly reporting both current and potential hazards to their supervisors. Supervisors are expected to promptly and effectively follow up on these reports.

The safety program shall include:

- (1) Fire prevention;
- (2) Accident prevention;
- (3) Warning systems;
- (4) Emergency drills (fire, severe weather, earthquake, and intruder);
- (5) Traffic safety;
- (6) Traffic and parking controls;
- (7) Safety inspections;
- (8) First aid;
- (9) Disaster preparation; and
- (10) A disaster preparedness plan for a nuclear or other major emergency.

SAVE Act.ⁱⁱ A school shall utilize the template created by the state-level safety team and thus prepare a safety and building-level emergency response plan, outlining responsibilities and compliance with this part.

This shall address, at minimum, crisis intervention, emergency response, and emergency management.

Any meeting concerning school security or school safety plans shall not be subject to the open meetings laws defined in state law. Though closed to the general public, reasonable notice of the meeting shall be provided to the general public prior to such a meeting. The school shall not discuss or deliberate on any other issues or subjects during such a meeting.

The school shall provide to the local law enforcement agency with jurisdiction the school's plans regarding security and school safety plans, as well as information, records, and plans that are related to school security.

A building-level school safety team shall be appointed by the building school leader, in accordance with regulations or guidelines prescribed by the State Board. Such building-level teams shall include, but not be limited to, a teacher representative, administrator representative, representative of parent organizations, and school personnel including school safety personnel. Building-level school safety teams may also include community members, local law enforcement officials, local ambulance or other emergency response agencies, and any other representatives the school deems appropriate. The safety plan shall be reviewed by the appropriate school safety team on at least an annual basis and updated as needed.

The school shall file a copy of its comprehensive safety plan with the Commissioner of Education, and all amendments to the plan shall be filed with the Commissioner no later than thirty (30) days after their adoption. A copy of the safety plan and any amendments to the plan shall be filed with the appropriate local law enforcement agency and with the Department of Safety within thirty (30) days of their adoption.

School-level emergency response plans shall be confidential and shall not be subject to any open or public records requirements.

If the school fails to file the plan, the Commissioner of Education may withhold state funds, in an amount determined by the Commissioner, from the school until it is in compliance.

A school may seek grant funding from the school safety center to assist with compliance.ⁱⁱⁱ The school shall ensure that all safety and emergency response plans required by this part are developed in such a manner as to be consistent with harassment and bullying policies developed.^{iv}

The school shall adopt a policy addressing who can possess a firearm on school property compliant with all state and federal rules and regulations.^v

No school or law enforcement agency is required to assign or provide funding for a school resource officer to any school on the basis of attendance.^{vi} The provision of security or school resource officers by a sheriff shall be considered a law enforcement function and not a school operation or maintenance purpose that requires the apportionment of funds.^{vii}

School Safety Zones.^{viii} A school may develop a method of marking school safety zones, including the use of signs. Signs or other markings shall be located in a visible manner on or near the school indicating that such area is a school safety zone, that such zone extends 1,000 feet from school property and that the delivery or sale of a controlled substance or controlled substance analogue to a minor in the school safety zone will subject the offender to an enhanced punishment. The district shall assist the school in complying with the preceding provisions, as needed.

As defined for this section:

- (1) School property means all property used for school purposes, including, but not limited to, school playgrounds; and
- (2) A school safety zone is the territory located within 1,000 feet of school property.

Safety Instruction. Whenever any state funds are used in any of the public schools of the state, it is the duty of the school leader of the school or schools, including all subschool leaders and teachers, to instruct pupils in the art of safety against injury on the public thoroughfares, highways and streets of the state, and other places where the students may come in contact with, or be in danger of, bodily injury, for at least fifteen (15) minutes in each week during the time the school is in session.^{ix}

Each authorized charter school shall comply with all state laws with regard to laboratory safety and toxic art supplies.^x

Legal References:

ⁱ T.C.A. § 49-6-1003

ⁱⁱ T.C.A. § 49-6-801 thru 815

ⁱⁱⁱ T.C.A. § 49-6-4302

^{iv} T.C.A. § 49-6-4503

^v T.C.A. § 39-11-106; T.C.A. § 39-17-1351

^{vi} T.C.A. § 49-6-4202

^{vii} T.C.A. § 49-3-315

^{viii} T.C.A. § 49-2-116

^{ix} T.C.A. § 49-6-1003

^x T.C.A. § 49-50-501; T.C.A. § 49-50-1201 thru 1204